

Child Development Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 3, 2002
Sierra Health Foundation

Welcome, Introductions and Committee Business

Ms. Malaske-Samu welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the staff for setting it up and for selecting the Sierra Health Foundation (SHF) site. She asked Jacquie Segersten to describe the foundation's philosophy and programs. Ms. Segersten welcomed everyone on behalf of the foundation's president, board and staff. The SHF is a private, philanthropic foundation devoted to health and health-related endeavors in the 26 central and eastern counties of northern California. The endowment was created 17 years ago when Foundation Health was converted from a non-profit to a for-profit health plan. The SHF will change its focus this year from using the endowment to provide large and small grants to non-profit organizations to using the funds for capacity-building efforts in those organizations. The first step in the transition is a program to promote sound leadership in non-profit organizations in the funding region. She invited everyone to pick up a brochure and to visit their website at www.sierrahealth.org. Their conference program will not change. The SHF facility is available for occasional meetings to non-profit organizations working in health and health-related endeavors.

The Committee, staff and audience members introduced themselves. Ms. Malaske-Samu welcomed everyone again and wished them a Happy New Year. She said that this meeting will be used to reflect on what we have done, to discuss what we want to see happen this year and to develop some strategies for realizing our vision. She asked for any recommendations about changing the agenda. None were offered. She invited everyone to feel free to contribute to the process today.

The Committee approved the December 2001 meeting minutes as written.

Recap of 2001 CDPAC Accomplishments

- CDPAC developed and conducted one conference, which was attended by more than 400 people from around the State.
- Staff have developed the agenda for the 2002 conference, secured speakers and are obtaining sponsors for that event.
- The Committee held nine meetings in 2001. Considerable attention was placed on the Administration's review of child care and the Governor's desire to ensure equity in the subsidized child care system. Other issues addressed through the meetings and follow up reports, issue briefs and subsequent activities included:
 - Children's mental health (in conjunction with Assembly Member Helen Thomson and the Little Hoover Commission – see *Young Hearts and Minds, Making a Commitment to Children's Mental Health*);

- The role of child care in fostering social and emotional health and the use of mental health consultants in training and supporting teachers and site supervisors;
 - Employer tax credits (AB 866 Diaz, Chapter 650, Statutes 2001);
 - Child care for children in Foster and Kin Care (see Issue Brief – Relative Caregivers);
 - Inclusion issues that prevent children with disabilities from having access to quality child care (see recommendations to the Department of Developmental Services from the ICC);
 - A Master Plan for child care (see Issue Brief – A Master Plan for Early Care and Education and Out-of-School Care: Building the Framework and SB 390 Escutia);
 - The role of quality child care in promoting school readiness;
 - The role of quality child care in preventing crime and delinquency (see *California's Child Care Crisis; A Crime Prevention Strategy* and *Never Too Early, Never Too Late To Prevent Youth Crime and Violence*);
 - The Statewide Impact of the child care industry (see *The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in California*);
 - Alternative funding and financing strategies being developed for child care (see Issue Brief – Alternatives to Financing);
 - Critical elements necessary to expand before and after school programs;
 - The challenges and rewards in Head Start collaboration efforts;
 - The child care food program;
 - Mentoring programs and child care (see *Mentoring and After-School Programs: A Winning Combination*);
 - What happens to CalWORKS families when they “time off” of aid;
 - The reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Child Care Block Grant (CCBG) programs;
 - Recommendations for achieving program efficiencies and equity.
- In addition to the conference, meetings and general publications, CDPAC helped to build the capacity of Local Child Care Planning Councils (LPCs) through the following:
 - Participated in conducting formal and informal needs assessments (see American Institutes for Research report);
 - Developed a resource manual for LPCs, which includes legal and program requirements, statewide contact lists and website information, a directory of Legislators, overview of the Legislative process and terms, guidelines for accessing Legislative information over the internet, and information about legal requirements of conducting public business such as the Brown Act. Also included was information about the Department of Education, Education Code Sections and contract language, Management Memos and correspondence related to local planning;
 - Produced updates on funding opportunities, legislation, and contracting issues, and communicated with LPCs via visits, e-mail, mail, phone and quarterly meetings;

- CDPAC worked with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to market the Child Care Facilities Financing Program (CCFFP). As part of this effort, staff:
 - Conducted 15 focus groups in various locations throughout the State;
 - Made presentations at the CAEYC conference and a meeting of the Local Proposition 10 Director's Association;
 - Worked with the Senate Budget Committee to make recommendations for modifications to the program. Although recommendations to strengthen the program were accepted and chaptered, funding fell victim to the State budget crisis (see reports on the Child Care Facilities Financing Program).
- Publications included
 - Issue briefs on Brain Development, Financing, and a Master Plan;
 - A brochure on selecting child care that was translated and made available on our website in eight languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Tagalog, Russian and Hmong;
 - The booklet *Alphabet Soup*, which provides a functional guide to federal, State and local agencies and includes contact information and a comprehensive definition of acronyms used in children and family services – also available on CDPAC's website;
 - In addition to providing a Resource Binder to every Local Child Care Planning Council, we also provided the 2001 Directory of the California Legislature and Robert's Rules of Order for the 21st Century, which includes information about conducting public business through meetings, e-mail, conference calls and video conferences.

Our partnerships were strengthened and collaborative projects were undertaken with the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention, the Legislative Women's Caucus, the California Working Families Summit, the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC), the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Providian Financial, the Little Hoover Commission, the California Research Bureau, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

With regard to CDPAC's infrastructure, website issues have been resolved and the website is current and updated regularly. The database and mailing list are being updated. We have updated all of our hardware, software and equipment. And we have requested exemptions from the State's hiring freeze to fill our vacant positions. The request is under consideration by the Department of Finance. Ms. Ryan said that the staff accomplished a lot last year and hopefully the issues brought up in today's meeting will be resolved by this time next year. She thanked the staff for all of their assistance.

Ms. Malaske-Samu asked about the status of the 2001-2002 contract with the Department of Education (CDE). Ms. Ryan said the scope of work, budget and contract language have been completed, Michael Jett has signed off on the

Interagency Agreement, and it is being processed. Ms. Malaske-Samu encouraged staff to keep a close eye on the contract and its funding. Joyce De Witt commented that the contract with HCD has resulted in valuable contacts and commended staff on their efforts in this area. She also said a strength of the Committee is that it is a place where a variety of interests can come together and be heard where there is no single agenda.

Ms. Ryan spoke about the survey to identify the Prop 10 funds used for child care that was done by CDPAC, the Prop 10 Executive Director's Association, and Dion Aroner's office. The data is being reviewed by the executive directors and coming back to CDPAC for revisions. Donna Beveridge offered to assist with the data. The Committee and staff discussed the accessibility and scope of the data in this survey and the roles of the Committee and others in identifying and meeting data needs. They emphasized the need for data concerning which special needs children do or do not have access to child care. Mary Emmons suggested the Committee could assume a leadership role in helping to provide models and information to the media about the child care needs identified in surveys.

Environmental Scan

Ms. Malaske-Samu spoke on the importance of looking at how the state and federal budgets are being diverted to homeland defense spending and security. She also said that an economic upswing is expected in the spring.

The ABC's of Possibilities

Ms. Ryan shared a partial list of issues, listed A-Z, and asked members to consider these and other ideas they may wish to address this year. She asked each member to narrow the list by identifying one to three major issues he/she thought the Committee should focus on. The aggregate list of issues was posted on a chart and reduced to a manageable list by the end of the day. The process involved identifying which issues CDPAC can address better than anyone else, those that are not already being done by someone else, and those that will move CDPAC closer to achieving the Committee Vision.

CDPAC Vision: All children and families in California will have access to high quality, affordable child care and development programs that facilitate their cognitive, social and emotional growth and that recognizes the importance of early brain development.

The items that will claim CDPAC time this year include the Governor's Budget, the Administrative Review, training and technical assistance to Local Planning Councils and other contract activities, and planning the annual conference. Ms. Ryan used an analogy of rocks, pebbles and sand to describe the magnitude of the issues we will have the time and resources to address. Staff members Priscilla Jong and Alex Castillon gave a demonstration of Rocks in a Jar. Mr. Castillon entered the grains of

sand, followed by the pebbles, small rocks and finally the larger rocks. However, not all of the larger rocks fit. Ms. Jong entered the larger rocks first followed by the smaller rocks, pebbles and finally all of the sand. This demonstrated that if the larger issues are dealt with first, then all of the smaller issues also can be resolved.

What Are the Big Rocks and Which Ones Are Ours?

Committee members wrote down the three child development issues most important to them. These were posted on a graph. Ms. Ryan asked the Committee to determine which should be the larger issues and which should be the smaller ones. Sharron Goldstein passed out questions to be reflected upon to help members narrow down the list of issues. They discussed the urgency of each issue, how they inter-relate, and which ones are most appropriate to CDPAC.

Dr. Robert Bates suggested it would be a good idea to survey the audience about why they attend and what they get out of the meetings. The audiences are quite large and many people travel a long distance to be at the monthly meetings. Donna Beveridge responded that the presentations, state reports, and meeting packets provide direct access to current information and this is taken back and shared at the local level. She reported that as a direct result of information she received at a CDPAC meeting she was successful in getting a \$1 million dollar grant. Otherwise, local people often wait for information to trickle down to them. Also, the meetings provide an opportunity to communicate with policy makers.

Diane Philibosian believes that some of the “rocks” that are too large should be pushed onto the Capitol doorstep so that the Committee can deal with those issues that are within its power to work on. She says that these bigger issues should be large enough that legislators are forced to work on them rather than push them aside. An example would be the need to increase wages for caregivers. There are numerous reasons why this is a critical issue.

Dr. Bates brought up the point that many of the questions dealt with by the Committee should be expressed in terms of adults. That is, how will quality child care impact the adults these children become, and if we don’t provide it, what will happen to them and to our society? What evidence do we have that quality early child development will prevent certain problems later on? It is important to focus the issues in terms of their long-range impact when marketing them to the public and approaching the Legislature. If constituencies saw the relationship of early childhood development to later outcomes, then maybe we could get more support for addressing our issues legislatively.

A discussion followed about how to get CDPAC’s issues into public knowledge so that the public as well as professionals will be aware of what the child care community is doing and the importance of their work. Ms. Ryan commented that reports in the media about child care are usually pessimistic. Ms. Emmons said that part of the Committee’s mission should be to raise the awareness of child care issues

in the eyes of the Legislature. Perhaps there could be a program, including the LPCs, to help the Legislature understand the issues and know their constituents, many of whom are working, struggling parents. Employers, too, and especially small employers, need to understand the short and long-term importance of child care and the benefits to their company of providing it in their benefits package. This is a goal we could work on that is the responsibility of no other group and that we have the expertise and resources to do.

This led to a discussion about welfare reform and the need for a policy goal to continue child care subsidies for the working poor that have moved from welfare to work.

Building the Plan

Ms. Ryan reviewed the issues identified by the Committee and categorized them. For each issue, she asked the Committee to examine six questions related to building a proper understanding of the problem and CDPAC's role in addressing it: Who, What, Why, How, When, and Where? The issues were discussed, and some were combined with others. The discussion resulted in the following plan.

Issue 1 – Quality Child Care is School Readiness

Efforts to define school readiness must recognize quality child care as a fundamental component. Information is necessary to raise the level of awareness among policymakers, the business community and the general public and to ignite further exploration of the school readiness issues beyond the current focus on children in low-performing schools. Members and staff will plan activities that include developing a panel of experts for presentations and developing fact sheets and other materials. These will highlight the message that quality child care and early development experiences prepare children for school and, therefore, for future workforce participation. The purpose of this effort is to ensure that the issues of school readiness are understood and communicated from an early childhood development perspective that emphasizes the important role of quality child care.

Issue 2 – Inform Legislators

Members and staff in partnership with advocacy groups working on similar issues, will develop opportunities to inform legislators, legislative staff and congressional leaders about the importance of quality child care as an education and a workforce issue. This effort will offer decision-makers a broad perspective and provide a context for evaluating alternatives when making funding decisions about children's immediate and future needs. Dollars well spent now, will result in improved outcomes and significant cost avoidance in the future. Information and activities will provide a perspective emphasizing positive and negative actions that influence the lives of children. Activities, which will be provided at the Capitol and in communities throughout the state, will include developing a binder with uniform

information; involving Local Child Care Planning Councils in local information-sharing forums (this includes training for the LPCs); organizing site visits to quality child care programs; and further development of a clearinghouse aspect to the CDPAC website, which will highlight new items of interest and will share and disseminate up-to-date information.

Issue 3 - Special Needs

Our focus must be on the needs of ALL children. Many children experience behavior, social, cultural and language-related problems. These challenges are due in part to the fact that our society has changed dramatically since the 1960's. These changes have been accommodated in the adult world, but not in the child world. For example, it is not unusual for a child in 2002 to have had at least 10 caregivers before entering kindergarten. As a consequence, children today are faced with many issues (i.e. multiple relationships) that were not previously a routine part of life. Efforts within this goal will include advocacy for policies that consider the contemporary needs of children. To develop these policies we need to examine whether today's schools are ready for today's children, families, and communities. Activities will include: showcasing model programs; publishing information to assist local planners and legislators; considering strategies to reach parents via their place of employment (i.e. providing child development information and/or parenting classes for working parents at worksites during lunch time).

Ms. Ryan closed the discussion by listing the other issues identified by the Committee. She noted that although these issues may be lesser in magnitude at this time, they are important and will remain in this year's "jar of rocks, pebbles and sand" and be reconsidered as time and resources permit. Ms. Ryan thanked the Committee and stated that today's work will help create the agenda for this year.

The March agenda will include a discussion of facility and playground renovation and design.